

Master Gardener Update

August 2021

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Seed Companies You May Not Have Heard Of—Yet.

If you look around your kitchen, or maybe the dining room, or the family room, or even the bedroom, and you are a gardener, it is highly likely that you will find a stack of seed catalogs. In between the pages will undoubtedly be sheets filled with notes from a yellow legal pad, or even wide ruled elementary school ring binder paper. There might be lists, or diagrams, or pictures. There might be random notes, or very careful details on how to propagate plants from seed. The catalogs will have turned over pages, Post-It notes stuck to the pages, errata scribbled in the borders. You may pick them up now and then and flip through them, searching for something you know you saw in this one – or was it THAT one?

As summer wears on, after they have served their purpose and all the seeds



Websites

For Rock County

MGV info:

rock.extension.wisc.edu/
OR
fyi.extension.wisc.edu/
mgvrockco/

MGV Hours Reporting:

mastergardener.
extension.wisc.edu/
report-your-hours/

RPMGA Blog:

rpmga.blogspot.com

RPMGA on Facebook:

Hit control/click on this
link:
[RPMGA on Facebook](#)

Rotary Gardens:

rotarybotanicalgardens.
org

**Wisconsin Master
Gardener Program:**

mastergardener.
extension.wisc.edu

**Wisconsin Master
Gardener Association
(WIMGA):** wimga.org

have been bought and the sets grown and the plants planted, their immediate worth may have dulled a bit. Oh, they still mean something. The idea of discarding them is a foreign one. They go to that place where all great garden stuff goes. A large cardboard box, the bottom drawer in the desk, the top shelf in the coat closet, the extra chair in the corner of the kitchen. I know beyond a doubt that many of you keep them for years because I do. Along with the notes and all the other essential gardening stuff that has warmed our hearts, and filled our homes with beauty, fresh vegetables and joy. Just because they have been stacked up or tucked away they are as important as all the other memorabilia that is the heart-beat of every home.

When summer turns to fall, the harvest is done, the flowers have faded, there is a brief pause. Gardening is over for the year – and yet, there is time to think about next season, and the next batch of garden catalogs that will fill your mailbox or, with today’s reliance on electronic information – your inbox. When winter is heavy upon us, and we are sitting pondering what we’ll plant next year, it’s time to look around for new catalogs to add to our already long list. With that thought in mind I have been doing that very thing. A bit early, true enough, but not too early to have found some gems hiding out there in the world. Waiting for us to discover them.

I have not arranged these gems in any particular order. I am offering them as I found them. Enjoy!!

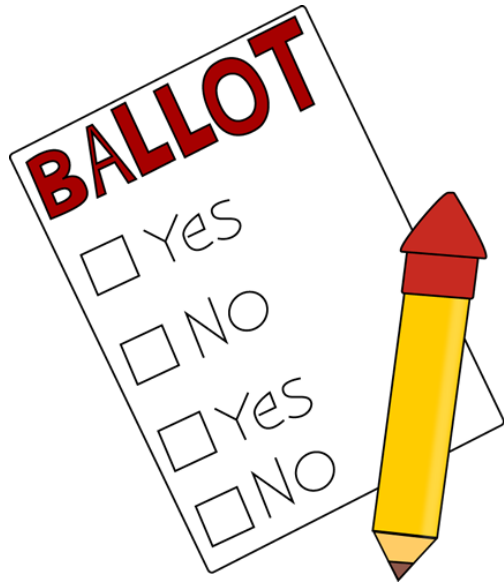
Mary Kay Thompson



The first new (at least to me) catalog to catch my eye was True Leaf Market in Salt Lake City, Utah. As soon as I found their website I realized that I am not the only person who begins their search for online (which of course leads to paper) catalogs early. On a banner on their home page they ask – “Planning your fall garden? Click here.” Their office is

housed at 175 West 2700 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84115. They have been around for quite a while – in fact for 47 years. They have been Non-GMO the entire time. Check on the following link to see all their seeds. [All Garden Seeds](#)

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Very Important! Please come!

RPMGA Incorporation Vote

Thursday, August 5, 5:30 p.m.

Premier Bank Community Room,

1400 Black Bridge Road, Janesville

Note: the bank is located just behind the McDonalds on Milton Ave.).

We want RPMGA to be a useful and valuable resource for you, but we need your input from time to time to make it what you need. This is one of those times we need to hear your voice—maybe the most crucial one we’ve faced so far. We have to change our structure in order to continue as an organization.

On the Agenda:

MGV Program Update Julie Hill will share the latest news from the state MGV Program office and answer questions about current COVID restrictions or any other aspects or requirements of being an MGV that come from the UW Division of Extension.

Incorporation Discussion & Vote The RPMGA advisory group is recommending RPMGA become a Wisconsin non-stock, non-profit corporation. We’ll explain why a change is necessary, what options the advisory group considered and why this is the recommended action.

Board Election If we decide to incorporate, we’ll also vote on a board of directors. Nominations from the floor will be welcome. We also have a group of people who have indicated their willingness to serve.

Hope to see many of you there!

In-Person Garden Tour Merrill Community Sharing Garden, Beloit

This is a garden unlike other community gardens. It's not a place to rent a plot and grow your own vegetables and flowers. It's a place where people contribute what labor they can and are free to take any of the produce they need with no charge. Volunteers keep things hopping and an outdoor classroom hosts educational events related to nutrition and the garden on a regular basis.

The sharing garden is located on 3 adjacent lots in the Merrill neighborhood of Beloit. The vision and mission for the garden is four-fold:

- To transform a vacant lot into something of greater beauty and purpose.
- To create opportunities for broader community engagement in the Merrill Neighborhood.
- To provide fresh produce to our neighbors
- To preserve, respect, and enjoy the natural biodiversity of the garden

The garden is overseen by Kaelyb Lokrantz, a full-time employee of Community Action Inc. Kaelyb handles planning and programming for the garden, as well as helping to plant and tend the produce. His oversight is integral to the success of the garden. And Kaelyb would be happy to give us a guided tour.

If you are interested in seeing the Merrill Community Sharing Garden, please contact Ruth Flescher (yafello2@gmail.com) by August 8 and let her know when you are available during the weeks of August 16-20 and 23-27. Once we know when people can come, we'll arrange a time with Kaelyb that works for as many as possible.



MGV Program Launches Foundations in Horticulture Online Class on August 13

As part of reorganizing the training for new MGVs, the state program office promised to split it into two sections—the “Onboarding” orientation (required), and the horticulture training (recommended). In addition, the plan was to make the horticulture training available to anyone who was interested, not just potential MGVs. Well, it’s here. Foundations in Horticulture is going live in a few weeks! The class begins Friday, August 13 at 5:00 p.m. Registration is required, but you can sign up right up until the day of the first class. The fee is \$299. If you know someone interested in taking the class, they can find the link on the “Events” tab on the state MG website: mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu

The Latest Covid-19 Guidelines from the MGV Program—a Summary

Date Effective	July 8, 2021
Face Coverings	Recommended for unvaccinated individuals (Don’t ask about vaccination status or try to enforce mask wearing.)
Physical Distancing	No longer required
Participant Numbers	No limits
Food	No limitations
Bus Trips	Individuals not vaccinated should wear a face covering while riding with others. Occupancy is not limited.
Podding	Suggested for longer duration programs with younger children (Under 12 years)
Approval Process	COVID-19 specific approvals are no longer necessary.
Record Keeping	No longer necessary

Volunteer News from Rotary

The folks at Rotary Gardens know it can't exist without your help, so to celebrate its volunteers, Rotary is having a 'Volunteer Appreciation Ice Cream Social' on Wednesday, August 18th from 6:00pm – 7:00pm. Ice cream, toppings, root beer and lemonade. All volunteers are welcome to come and bring a guest. Please RSVP to volunteer@rotarygardens.org. It will be good to see everyone and celebrate YOU!



And speaking of volunteering, Rotary continues to need volunteers for daily gardening duties; please use the signup sheet to schedule your days. The signups are still only for a 1st shift of 8:00am-11:30am; if you want to work in the afternoons, please let Michael Jesiolowski know at michael.jesiolowski@rotarygardens.org. Please be here at the 8:00am start time so scheduled duties for the day can be completed. If you do have to come late, please get in touch with a staff member using a hand radio. And with the drought we've been having, Rotary desperately needs the Sunday Watering Crew to help us get through it. The link to sign up for gardening activities and watering is: <https://signup.com/go/PfKXtDt>



What's In Bloom Tour, Wednesday, August 25, 6-7 p.m., live at Rotary Gardens

This monthly tour series runs from May through September and features RBG Director of Horticulture, Michael Jesiolowski. Mike will guide participants around the gardens and describe what is in bloom.

Limited to 20 people, so registration is required. Fee: \$0 for RBG members, \$10 for non-members. Register online, by phone (608- 752-3885) or at the Gardens.

More Training Coming Up in August and Beyond

Looking for Level 2 MGV training--The Plants Plus modules? They will continue to be available under the "Learn" tab at mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu until the end of September. After that they will ONLY be available in the online classroom software, Canvas, which you access with your UW NetID. (They're currently in both locations.)

WI Horticulture Updates, Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., August 6, 13, 20 and 27 online

The Extension Horticulture Update is a great continuing education opportunity for you to learn more about the emerging pests and problems that occur in our gardens and landscapes across the state. In addition, special topics are covered each time. August topics include diagnostic case studies, tomatoes in hi- and caterpillar tunnels, strawberry and raspberry fall activities and proper tree and shrub planting. Each week counts as 1 hour of continuing education. Sign into Canvas using your UW NetID for connection links. Or go to this address:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11hrIi9hsJBWSIOSWjR4aqU2VFRE-Fy4pvIxD4CyXk/view>

Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Classes are in person at the Gardens unless otherwise noted. Fees listed are for Olbrich Members/General Public. For more info, copy and paste this address: <http://www.olbrich.org/education/classes.cfm>

The deadline to register for this class has passed, but you could call and inquire if space is still available: 608-245-3648
August 2, Lawn Alternatives Walk, 6:30-8 p.m., \$15/\$18. Registration deadline was July 25.

Registration is still open for these classes. Some may already be filled but try anyway--cancellations do occur.

August 11, Create a Tropical Effect in Your Garden Walk, 6-7:30 p.m., \$12/\$15. Registration Deadline: August 1.

September 1, Focusing on Foliage Walk, 6-7:30 p.m., \$12/\$15. Registration Deadline: August 22.

September 8, Better Soil, Better Plants and Happier Gardeners, 6:30-8:30, \$16/\$20. Registration deadline: August 29.



Dane County UW Extension Green Thumb Gardening Classes, Mondays, 6-8 p.m, online

The Green Thumb Gardening series will give you the practical knowledge to keep your home garden thriving! University of Wisconsin Extension educators and local horticulture experts will provide in-depth and accessible information for everyone from the novice to the experienced gardener. Cost is \$12/session. Register up until the day of the class at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-green-thumb-gardening-mid-summer-series-online-talks-tickets-128295801195>

August 9, Growing and Designing with Annuals (with optional outdoor lab, pending COVID developments, date TBA)

August 16, Lawn Care

Hancock Agricultural Research Station Garden Tour, Saturday, August 7, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you're up for a drive or heading north anyway, consider stopping to tour this UW facility. The garden open house is a family-friendly event, offering tours of the station's babbling brook, vegetable garden and many other new additions. There will be activities for kids including an alphabet adventure and bingo. Hancock Agricultural Research Station, N3909 County Road V, Hancock, WI



Hazelnuts Field Day at West Madison Ag Research Station, Thursday August 12, 4:00 p.m.

Hazelnuts are an emerging new crop for Wisconsin. Come learn more about this exciting opportunity and see new hazelnut varieties in action in one of the Midwest's Hazelnut Joint Performance Trials. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Go to bayfield.extension.wisc.edu/Wisconsin-hazelnuts-field-day/

Regenerative Agriculture Workshop and Field Day, Silverwood Park, Edgerton, Sunday, August 15, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

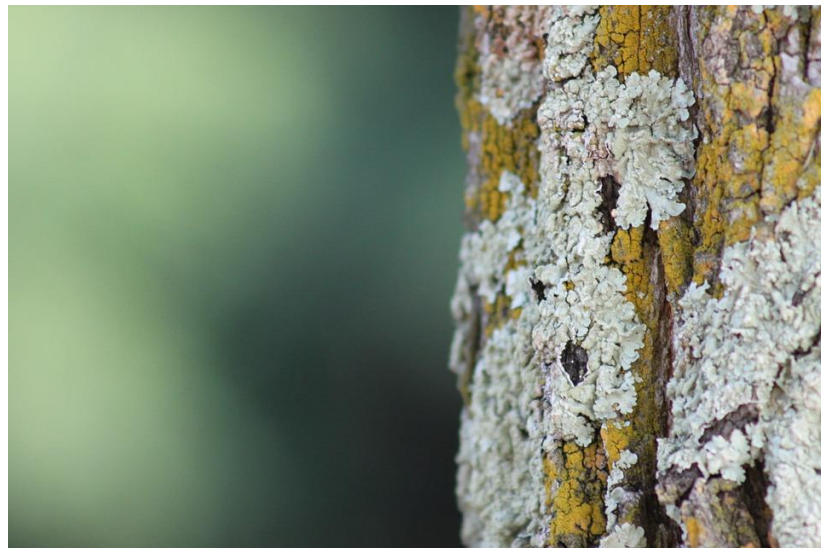
Silverwood Park near Edgerton is dedicated to being a showcase and educational venue for topics related to sustainability and regenerative agriculture. This field day is a chance to get a look at the various projects currently running out at the park. Schedule: 11:00 - Welcome Time with food & refreshments available. Noon - Small vegetable & flower grower stories. 1:30 - Indigenous corn, cover cropping, and small equipment demonstrations. 3:00 - Savanna Institute / Tour of Heirloom Orchard. Free and open to the public.

End-of-Summer-Planted Fall Vegetables, Tuesday, August 17, 1:30-2:30 p.m. online via Zoom

Fall harvested vegetables tend to be sweeter as they finish growing as the temperatures are cooling and fall approaches. Join University of Illinois Extension Horticulture Educator Bruce J. Black as he shares some tips for planting fall vegetables, which vegetables are better suited for a late summer planting, and some information about how to store fall harvested vegetables for their longest shelf or storage life. Free, but registration required. Go to <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=23627><https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=23627>

Summer Garden Stroll, UW Arboretum, Madison, Sunday, August 22, 1-2 p.m.

This gently paced stroll through the gardens on wheelchair accessible routes is well-suited for a multi-generational outing. Learn about plants, animals, and fungi; phenology; and ecology. Meet in the outdoor classroom 5 minutes before start. Wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and come prepared for weather and insects. Walks take place rain or shine, except in unsafe weather. Free. Space is limited. Due to COVID restrictions, all participants must register by August 19. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-garden-stroll-tickets-154591087103>



Diseased, Decayed and Dangerous: When Good Trees Go Bad, Connor Forestry Center at the UW's Kemp Natural Resources Station, Woodruff. Monday, August 23, 7-8:30 p.m.

If you're spending time anywhere near the Minocqua/Tomahawk/Eagle River area later this month, consider this educational opportunity. Landowners have legal "duty of care" for the trees on their properties, including responsibility to obtain expert assistance when appropriate. During this workshop, attendees will learn how qualified arborists assess tree risk by estimating likelihood of tree failure and impact, and the consequences to property and people. No charge and no registration required. For more information, visit <https://kemp.wisc.edu/outreach/> or contact kemp@cals.wisc.edu. The Kemp Natural Resources Station is located at 9161 Kemp Road, Woodruff, WI.

UW Organic Agriculture Research Field Day, Arlington Ag Research Station, Tuesday, August 24, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This field day will highlight organic research conducted at UW–Madison, including optimizing equipment and production practices for organic no-till production; interseeding cover crops into corn, soybeans and cereal grains; the impact of organic management on soil microbial communities; and weed management for organic hemp production for grain. A free lunch will be provided. Registration is requested by Aug. 26. RSVP to emsilva@wisc.edu. Address: N695 Hopkins Road, Arlington, WI about 15 minutes north of Madison.

UW Agronomy and Soils Field Day, Arlington Ag Research Station, Wednesday, August 25, 2021, 8 a.m. – noon

This field day will feature field plot tours and UW research updates on soil fertility and management; pest management; Kernza® production and other grain production systems; and many other topics. Detailed info at: <https://go.wisc.edu/agronomysoilsfd>. No charge, but registration is required by Aug. 15. Go to <https://go.wisc.edu/a32g16> or call (608) 262-0485. Arlington Agricultural Research Station is located at N695 Hopkins Road, Arlington, WI, about 15 minutes north of Madison.

Vineyard Walk, West Madison Ag Research Station, Thursday, September 2, 1-3 p.m.

Attendees will take a walk through the station's vineyards with UW–Madison experts and learn about cold-hardy table grape varieties, the Petite Pearl wine grape variety, disease resistance evaluations, insect monitoring efforts, and general vineyard management. Free. No registration required. The West Madison Agricultural Research Station is located at 8502 Mineral Point Road, Verona, WI



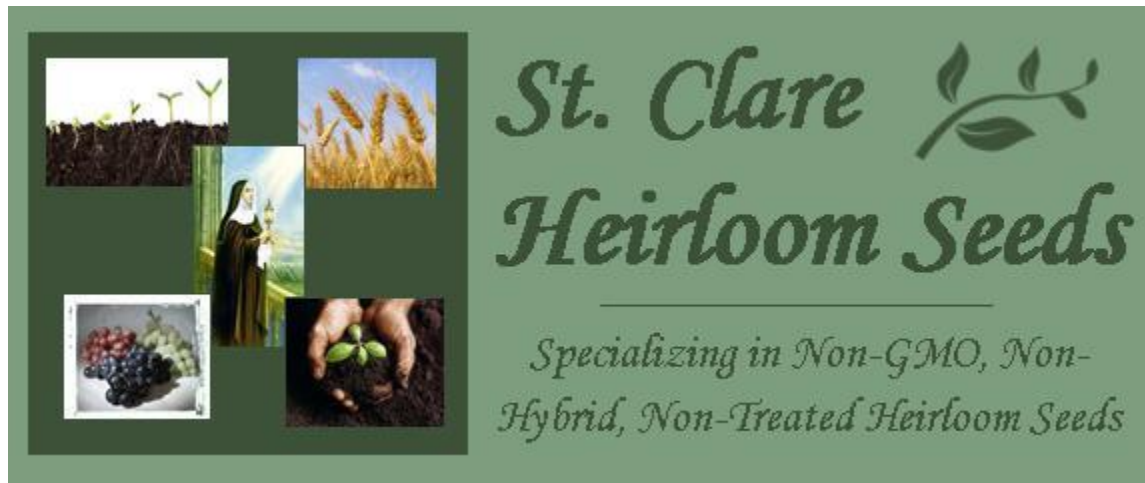
Mark Dwyer Online Fall Workshops through UW-Whitewater, Saturdays in late September and October, 9-10:30 a.m., online via WebEx

Landscape consultant and Rotary Gardens former Director of Horticulture Mark Dwyer is offering a trio of online courses this fall through the UW-Whitewater. Dates and topics are listed below. And though the classes run for an hour and a half, they're certified for only .5 hours of continuing education credit for Master Gardener Volunteers. Fee: \$25/session. Limited to 75 participants. To register, go to <https://www.uww.edu/ce/gardenlandscape/onlineworkshop> and click on the session you want to register for.

- **Using Conifers for Garden Structure** Saturday, September 25, 2021. Registration deadline: noon, September 23.
- **A Focus on Sustainability in the Landscape** Saturday, October 9, 2021. Registration deadline: noon, October 7.
- **Cool New Plants to Look for Next Spring** Saturday, October 23, 2021. Registration deadline: noon, October 21.

Note: If you don't already have WebEx software, it's free to download. A link to the correct site can be found if you scroll down the registration page (address in blue, above). It's about three-quarters of the way down.

Seed Companies You May Not Have Heard Of—Yet, continued



St. Clare Heirloom Seeds

P.O. Box 163
Cecil, WI

100% certified organic flower, vegetable and herb seeds.

<https://www.stclareseeds.com/garden-help/product-category/100-certified-organic-seeds>

Brim Seeds

A Texas-based seed company offering non-GMO, open pollinated and heirloom seeds. Although they are a company that offers old-school vegetables and gardening techniques, they do all their sales online.

[Brim's vegetable seed list](#)





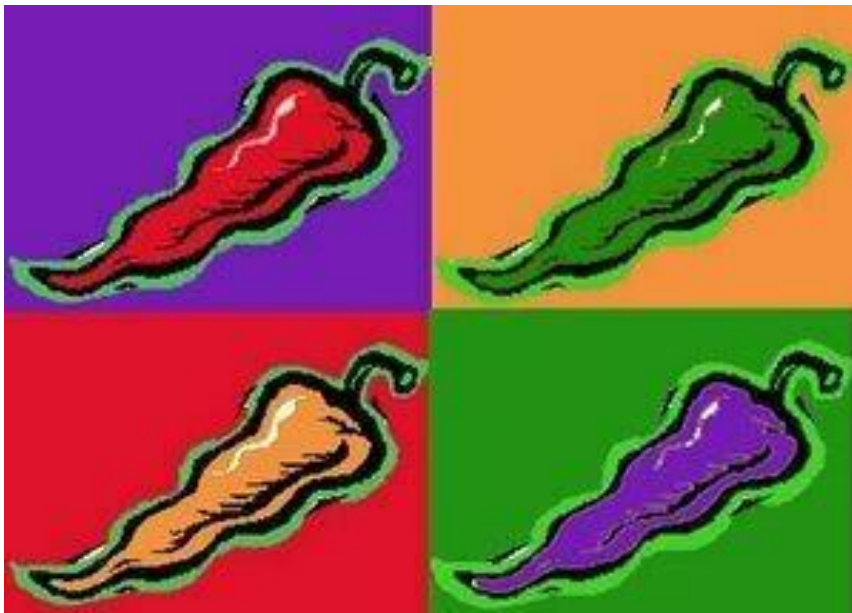
Nature & Nurture Seeds

Seeds You Can Trust

7100 Marshall Rd
Dexter, MI 48130

Their seeds are heirloom, Non-GMO, and grown with sustainable methods.

[Their seeds](#)



Chili Pepper Institute

On the campus of New Mexico State University.
940 College Drive
Las Cruces, NM, 88003, US

Over 150 varieties of chilis. The only garden of its kind in the US.

[Chili Pepper Institute seed list](#)

Osenbaugh's Prairie Seed Farms

Prairie Seed and Wildflowers – To help with restorations and new plots
11009 542nd Street
Lucas, Iowa 50151



[Current Prairie Seed Plant list](#)



MIGardener

An online blog that provides resources to help gardeners all over the world (yes – world) fulfill their goals.

Who says the Internet is keeping young people cooped up indoors, their eyes glued to the computer screen. This organization says no to that. Their mission statement shows something entirely different.

Our Mission: MIGardener Strives To Provide Premium, Free Information For Everyone, Everywhere. Helping You Grow Food More Efficiently, Live A Healthier Life, And Have Fun Doing It.

[MIGardener vegetable seed source](#) by category.

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